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diminution of the degree of frequency which obtains in the polar areas.

The greatest number found on a single plate was 304 (checked by duplicate plate) in the remarkable region at $12^h\ 55^m$, $+28^\circ\ 30'$; the region about N.G.C. 4826, less than 7° from this, shows only 2.

The only reason for reducing the estimate made from these counts would be the possibility that the small spirals may conceivably occur in greatest profusion in the regions contiguous to the larger members of the class, and evidence on this point is only to be secured by taking many additional plates at random.

In conclusion, I see no reason, at present existing, for changing the estimate made above, that at least 700,000 small spirals are within reach of large reflecting telescopes. Because of the fact that the faintest and smallest members of the class are, in general, discernible only in the more central regions of the plate, I am inclined to regard this figure as, if anything, an underestimate, and consider it very probable that the total number accessible may well exceed one million.

Heber D. Curtis.

A Spiral Nebula in the Milky Way

As is well known, the spiral nebulae show a tendency to group themselves about the poles of the Galaxy, apparently shunning the region of the Milky Way. A very few small nebula are found in regions near the Milky Way, and it has been possible to lay down the general rule that a spiral nebula is never found in the Milky Way structure itself. The nebula N. G. C. 6440 ($17^h\ 42^m.9$, $-20^\circ\ 19'$), appears to form practically the only known exception to this rule.[1] Altho this object is some distance from the center of all the available Crossley plates of this region, rendering its details somewhat indistinct, there seems to be no doubt that it is a rather bright, nearly round, very compact, spiral nebula $1'.5$ in diameter. Its unusual interest lies in the fact that it is less than 2° from the galactic plane. It lies in the gap which separates the two branches of the Milky Way at this point, a region for which the spirals show their maximum degree of avoidance. As soon as this region comes within reach further plates will be taken with the nebula centrally placed.

Heber D. Curtis.

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[1] Pease describes N. G. C. 6555 ($18^h 2^m.7$, $+17^\circ 35'$) as "spiral in plan in Milky Way" (*An. Report Director Mt. Wilson Solar Observatory for 1916*, p. 244). This nebula is about 16° from the galactic plane.

Footnote.—In my absence from Lick Observatory Dr. Thiele took a plate of this object on April 10, with the object well centered on the plate. The conditions were poor, and it will take another plate to decide the question, but the probabilities are that it is a compact star-cluster showing evidences of spiral formation.